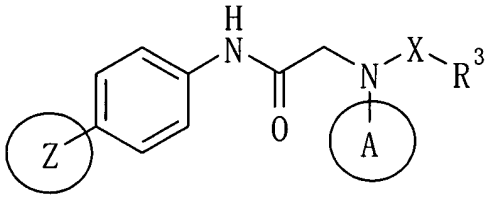
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (canceled).

14. (new): An amide derivative represented by general formula (I) below or a salt thereof,



(I)

wherein:

Z: 1,2,3-triazol-2-yl or 2-pyridyl group,

A: an aryl which may have a substituent(s), heteroaryl which may have a substituent(s), saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl which may have a substituent(s) or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group which may have a substituent(s), provided that the saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group is bonded to a nitrogen atom via a carbon atom in an aromatic ring,

X: CO or SO_2,

R^3: an alkyl which may have a substituent(s), alkenyl which may have a substituent(s), alkynyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkenyl which may have a substituent(s), aryl which may have a substituent(s), or heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) or NRaRb,

Ra and Rb: which are the same or different from each other, H, a lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl which has 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from a group consisting of N, S and O, or lower alkylene-aryl group.

15. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14, wherein X is CO.

16. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14, wherein A is an aryl group selected from a phenyl and naphthyl group; a heteroaryl group selected from a pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group; a saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl group selected from 4-indanyl, 5-indanyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-1-yl and 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-yl; or a saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group selected from a 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxadinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzothiadinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxynyl, chromanyl, isochromanyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl, 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolyl, and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolyl group; the aryl, heteroaryl, saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl and saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1;

R^3 is a cycloalkyl selected from cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl, cycloalkenyl selected from cyclopentenyl and cyclohexenyl, aryl selected from phenyl and naphthyl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl selected from 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl and 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, heteroaryl selected from pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group, or 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group selected from tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, tetrahydro-2H-thiopyranyl, thiepanyl, thiocanyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl,

piperadinyl, azepanyl, diazepanyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl group, the cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl, heteroaryl and 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1 and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide; and

Group D1: lower alkyl, phenyl, halogeno lower alkyl, COOH, COO-lower alkyl, CO-lower alkyl, halogen atoms, NO_2, CN, OH, lower alkylene-OH, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkyl, O-halogeno lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-COOH, O-lower alkylene-COO-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-NH_2, O-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, O-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), O-phenyl, O-lower alkylene-phenyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-NH_2, NH-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), N(lower alkyl)$_2$, (a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) selected from lower alkyl and lower alkylene-COORa), NHCO-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)CO-lower alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-lower alkyl, CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, =O(oxo), SH, S-lower alkyl, SO-lower alkyl, and SO_2-lower alkyl.

17. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 16, wherein A is a group selected from a phenyl, pyridyl, benzothiazolyl, indazolyl, 5-indanyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and indolinyl group, all of which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, CF_3, halogen atoms, CO-lower alkyl, OH, O-lower alkyl, CN, OCF_3, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl and O-lower alkylene-phenyl; and

R^3 is a group selected from a cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzothiazolyl, benzooxadiazolyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydro-2H-thiopyranyl and perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl group, all of which may

be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halogen atoms, CN, =O, OH, O-lower alkyl, lower alkylene-OH and $CONH_2$ and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide.

18. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14, wherein A is a group selected from a phenyl and 5-indanyl group, all of which may have 1 to 4 substituents selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl, O-lower alkyl and halogen atoms; X is CO; and R^3 is 1,1-dioxidotetrahydro-2H-thiopyran-4-yl.

19. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 18, wherein A is a phenyl, which is substituted a methyl group and may further have 1 or 2 substituents selected from a group consisting of methyl and halogen atoms.

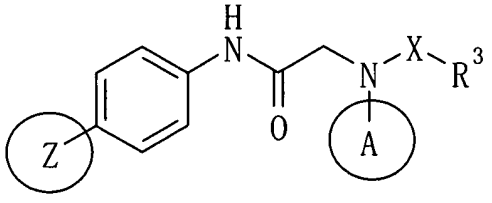
20. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 18, wherein A is 5-indanyl group.

21. (new): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (new): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21 which is an anti-herpesvirus drug.

23. (new): A method for treating diseases in which herpesvirus is involved which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14.

24. (new): An amide derivative represented by general formula (I) below or a salt thereof,



(I)

wherein:

Z: 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 4-oxazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-2-yl or 2-pyridyl group,

A: an aryl which may have a substituent(s), heteroaryl which may have a substituent(s), saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl which may have a substituent(s) or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group which may have a substituent(s), provided that the saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group is bonded to a nitrogen atom via a carbon atom in an aromatic ring,

X: CO or SO_2,

R^3: an alkyl which may have a substituent(s), alkenyl which may have a substituent(s), alkynyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkenyl which may have a substituent(s), aryl which may have a substituent(s), or heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) or NRaRb,

Ra and Rb: which are the same or different from each other, H, a lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl which has 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from a group consisting of N, S and O, or lower alkylene-aryl group,

provided that A is not (1) a phenyl group substituted with (i) one methyl group and (ii) 0, 1, or 2 additional substituents selected from the group consisting of a methyl group and halogen atoms, or (2) a 5-indanyl group.

25. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein X is CO.

26. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein A is an aryl group selected from a phenyl and naphthyl group; a heteroaryl group selected from a pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group; a saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl group selected from 4-indanyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-1-yl and 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-yl; or a saturated

heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group selected from a 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxadinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzothiadinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxynyl, chromanyl, isochromanyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl, 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolyl, and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolyl group; the aryl, heteroaryl, saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl and saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1;

R^3 is a cycloalkyl selected from cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl, cycloalkenyl selected from cyclopentenyl and cyclohexenyl, aryl selected from phenyl and naphthyl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl selected from 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl and 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, heteroaryl selected from pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group, or 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group selected from tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, tetrahydro-2H-thiopyranyl, thiepanyl, thiocanyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, piperadinyl, azepanyl, diazepanyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl group, the cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl, heteroaryl and 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1 and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide; and

Group D1: lower alkyl, phenyl, halogeno lower alkyl, COOH, COO-lower alkyl, CO-lower alkyl, halogen atoms, NO_2, CN, OH, lower alkylene-OH, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkyl, O-halogeno lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-COOH, O-lower alkylene-COO-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-NH_2, O-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, O-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), O-phenyl, O-lower alkylene-phenyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-NH_2, NH-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing

saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), N(lower alkyl)$_2$, (a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) selected from lower alkyl and lower alkylene-COORa), NHCO-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)CO-lower alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-lower alkyl, CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, =O(oxo), SH, S-lower alkyl, SO-lower alkyl, and SO_2-lower alkyl.

27. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 26, wherein A is a group selected from a phenyl, pyridyl, benzothiazolyl, indazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and indolinyl group, all of which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, CF_3, halogen atoms, CO-lower alkyl, OH, O-lower alkyl, CN, OCF_3, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl and O-lower alkylene-phenyl; and

R^3 is a group selected from a cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzothiazolyl, benzooxadiazolyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydro-2H-thiopyranyl and perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl group, all of which may be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halogen atoms, CN, =O, OH, O-lower alkyl, lower alkylene-OH and $CONH_2$ and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide.

28. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein Z is 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

29. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein Z is 4-oxazolyl group.

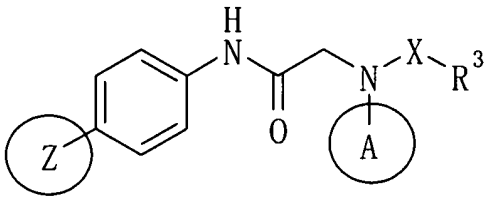
30. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein A is a phenyl which may have 1 to 4 substituents selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl, O-lower alkyl and halogen atoms; X is CO; and R^3 is 1,1-dioxidotetrahydro-2H-thiopyran-4-yl.

31. (new): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (new): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 which is an anti-herpesvirus drug.

33. (new): A method for treating diseases in which herpesvirus is involved which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24.

34. (new): An amide derivative represented by general formula (I) below or a salt thereof,



(I)

wherein:

Z: 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 4-oxazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-2-yl or 2-pyridyl group,

A: an aryl which may have a substituent(s), heteroaryl which may have a substituent(s), saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl which may have a substituent(s) or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group which may have a substituent(s), provided that the saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group is bonded to a nitrogen atom via a carbon atom in an aromatic ring,

X: SO_2,

R^3: an alkyl which may have a substituent(s), alkenyl which may have a substituent(s), alkynyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkenyl which may have a substituent(s), aryl which may have a substituent(s), or heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) or NRaRb,

Ra and Rb: which are the same or different from each other, H, a lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl

which has 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from a group consisting of N, S and O, or lower alkylene-aryl group.

35. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34, wherein A is an aryl group selected from a phenyl and naphthyl group; a heteroaryl group selected from a pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group; a saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl group selected from 4-indanyl, 5-indanyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-1-yl and 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-yl; or a saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group selected from a 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxadinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzothiadinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxynyl, chromanyl, isochromanyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl, 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolyl, and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolyl group; the aryl, heteroaryl, saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl and saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1;

R^3 is a cycloalkyl selected from cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl, cycloalkenyl selected from cyclopentenyl and cyclohexenyl, aryl selected from phenyl and naphthyl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl selected from 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl and 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, heteroaryl selected from pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group, or 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group selected from tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, tetrahydro-2H-thiopyranyl, thiepanyl, thiocanyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, piperadinyl, azepanyl, diazepanyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl group, the cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl, heteroaryl and 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1 and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide; and

Group D1: lower alkyl, phenyl, halogeno lower alkyl, COOH, COO-lower alkyl, CO-lower alkyl, halogen atoms, NO_2, CN, OH, lower alkylene-OH, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkyl, O-halogeno lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-COOH, O-lower alkylene-COO-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-NH_2, O-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, O-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), O-phenyl, O-lower alkylene-phenyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-NH_2, NH-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), N(lower alkyl)$_2$, (a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) selected from lower alkyl and lower alkylene-COORa), NHCO-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)CO-lower alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-lower alkyl, CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, =O(oxo), SH, S-lower alkyl, SO-lower alkyl, and SO_2-lower alkyl.

36. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 35, wherein A is a group selected from a phenyl, pyridyl, benzothiazolyl, indazolyl, 5-indanyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and indolinyl group, all of which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, CF_3, halogen atoms, CO-lower alkyl, OH, O-lower alkyl, CN, OCF_3, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl and O-lower alkylene-phenyl; and

R^3 is a group selected from a cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzothiazolyl, benzooxadiazolyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydro-2H-thiopyranyl and perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl group, all of which may be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halogen atoms, CN, =O, OH, O-lower alkyl, lower alkylene-OH and $CONH_2$ and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide.

37. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34, wherein Z is 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

38. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34, wherein Z is 4-oxazolyl group.

39. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34, wherein A is a phenyl, which is substituted a methyl group and may further have 1 or 2 substituents selected from a group consisting of methyl and halogen atoms.

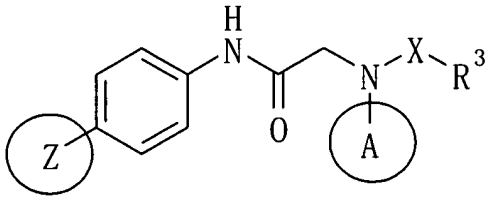
40. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34, wherein A is 5-indanyl group.

41. (new): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

42. (new): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 41 which is an anti-herpesvirus drug.

43. (new): A method for treating diseases in which herpesvirus is involved which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 34.

44. (new): An amide derivative represented by general formula (I) below or a salt thereof,



(I)

wherein:

Z: 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 4-oxazolyl, 1,2,3-triazol-2-yl or 2-pyridyl group,

A: an aryl which may have a substituent(s), heteroaryl which may have a substituent(s), saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl which may have a substituent(s) or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group which may have a substituent(s), provided that the

saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl or saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group is bonded to a nitrogen atom via a carbon atom in an aromatic ring,

X: CO or SO_2,

R^3: an alkyl which may have a substituent(s), alkenyl which may have a substituent(s), alkynyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkyl which may have a substituent(s), cycloalkenyl which may have a substituent(s), aryl which may have a substituent(s), or heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s), or NRaRb, provided that R^3 is not 1,1-dioxidotetrahydro-2H-thiopyran-4-yl,

Ra and Rb: which are the same or different from each other, H, a lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl which has 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from a group consisting of N, S and O, or lower alkylene-aryl group.

45. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44, wherein X is CO.

46. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44, wherein A is an aryl group selected from a phenyl and naphthyl group; a heteroaryl group selected from a pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group; a saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl group selected from 4-indanyl, 5-indanyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-1-yl and 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-yl; or a saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl group selected from a 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxadinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzothiadinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxynyl, chromanyl, isochromanyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl, 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolyl, and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolyl group; the aryl, heteroaryl, saturated hydrocarbon ring-fused aryl and saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1;

R^3 is a cycloalkyl selected from cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl, cycloalkenyl selected from cyclopentenyl and cyclohexenyl, aryl selected from phenyl and naphthyl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl selected from 1,3-benzodioxolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxinyl, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzothiopyranyl and 3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzothiopyranyl, heteroaryl selected from pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridyl and indolidinyl group, or 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group selected from tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, thiepanyl, thiocanyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, piperadinyl, azepanyl, diazepanyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl group, the cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, saturated heterocyclic ring-fused aryl, heteroaryl and 5- to 8-membered saturated heterocyclic group each may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from Group D1 and the sulfur atom of the ring may form oxide or dioxide; and

Group D1: lower alkyl, phenyl, halogeno lower alkyl, COOH, COO-lower alkyl, CO-lower alkyl, halogen atoms, NO_2, CN, OH, lower alkylene-OH, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkyl, O-halogeno lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-COOH, O-lower alkylene-COO-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-NH_2, O-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, O-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, O-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), O-phenyl, O-lower alkylene-phenyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-NH_2, NH-lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, NH-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-(a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with a lower alkyl group(s)), N(lower alkyl)$_2$, (a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent(s) selected from lower alkyl and lower alkylene-COORa), NHCO-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)CO-lower alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-lower alkyl, CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, =O(oxo), SH, S-lower alkyl, SO-lower alkyl, and SO_2-lower alkyl.

47. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 46, wherein A is a group selected from a phenyl, pyridyl, benzothiazolyl, indazolyl, 5-indanyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and indolinyl group, all of which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl, lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, CF_3, halogen atoms, CO-lower alkyl, OH, O-lower alkyl, CN, OCF_3, O-lower alkylene-OH, O-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, NH_2, NH-lower alkyl, N(lower alkyl)$_2$, NH-lower alkylene-OH, NH-lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl and O-lower alkylene-phenyl; and

R^3 is a group selected from a cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, benzothiazolyl, benzooxadiazolyl, thiabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl, thiomorpholinyl, and perhydro-1,3-thiazinyl group, all of which may be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halogen atoms, CN, =O, OH, O-lower alkyl, lower alkylene-OH and $CONH_2$ and the sulfur atom of the ring, if any, may form oxide or dioxide.

48. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44, wherein Z is 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

49. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44, wherein Z is 4-oxazolyl group.

50. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44, wherein A is a phenyl, which is substituted a methyl group and may further have 1 or 2 substituents selected from a group consisting of methyl and halogen atoms.

51. (new): The amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44, wherein A is 5-indanyl group.

52. (new): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

53. (new): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52 which is an anti-herpesvirus drug.

54. (new): A method for treating diseases in which herpesvirus is involved which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an amide derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 44.